

Caroline Grist

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk
Sent: 16 June 2026 12:16
To: Caroline Grist
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application DM/26/1315

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 16/06/2026 12:16 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	Land West Of Gatesmead Wickham Way Haywards Heath West Sussex
Proposal:	Proposed 49 new homes together with open space and associated infrastructure.
Case Officer:	Caroline Grist

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address:	31 Wickham Way Haywards Heath
----------	-------------------------------

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	Dear Caroline Grist, My objections are: 1)These fields are the last green open space left in Haywards Heath and should be protected as it has been designated as pastoral land and although many attempts have been used by developers over the past 45 years I have lived in Wickham Way, the Planning Inspectors have always recognised this and have stopped development. 2) The 49 houses Crest plan to put there would completely spoil the incredibly beautiful landscape and biodiversity which surround the 2 heritage Grade II* Listed buildings - Old Wickham Farm and Sunte House - I mean, where do you get 2 such buildings and their historically associated countryside setting, (which is part of the Grade II listing), in such a close proximity in a town? It is up to those who are responsible in the Council Planning to ensure these fields and buildings are are rigorously protected.

3) It may have escaped you, but there is good reason concern is expressed about the drainage on this land. Even West Sussex County Council acknowledged this in their scrutiny of Lindfield and Sunte House some years ago - Geographic Meaning: The name "Sunte" is a localized Sussex dialect word derived from the Old English *sunt*, which referred to a bog, swamp, or marshland. The area where the house stands was historically characterized by these damp, low-lying lands on the fringes of the High Weald. In fact, there is mention of this land going back before Sunte House was built to 1522 when it was known as Sonnte Land - very damp and marshy. Not a good place to build on dodgy medieval swamp lands. Plus there has been recent increases in the flooding caused by the brook which crosses the bottom of the land, extending across Portsmouth Lane and into roads to the East.

4) Do those suggesting MSDC provide more land such as this realise that the town is stretched to provide sufficient infrastructure to cope? Schools, Doctors, Drainage, Water supplies, increase in road Traffic. What with the plans to build on Sugworth Farm, the pressures will be enormous.

5) A Definitive Map Modification Order application affecting this site has been undetermined by West Sussex County Council since 15 November 2021 - over four-and-a-half years. Until DMMO 3/22 is determined, the legal status of the alleged public right of way over or adjacent to the site is unresolved, and MSDC cannot properly determine a planning application that may prejudice that route.

The land is also tucked well down from Gatesmead and 49 extra houses in this tight area would cause excessive traffic nuisance on the existing roads which are narrow and extremely rural in nature. The junction with Portsmouth Lane and Birchen Lane is becoming dangerous as it is with the last development shoved in at the bottom of Gatesmead.

Please accept these comments as genuine concern for the destruction of this last remaining ancient green space in Haywards Heath.

Thank you,

[Redacted Signature]

Kind regards